



PERSPECTIVES ON ADOPTION

ANNUAL ADOPTION CONFERENCE

March 18th - 19th 2009

**SOUTH TOWNE EXPO CENTER
SANDY, UTAH**



KEYNOTE AND MAIN PRESENTOR INFORMATION



Rita Simon Ph.D. will be our keynote speaker as well as a workshop presenter. She will talk about the in depth experiences of 24 adult transracial adoptees as they were growing up in white families. She will also briefly describe the parent's reactions to having adopted children of a different race. She will report on a 20 year study conducted with Howard Altstein on white families that adopted non-white children and how they followed those families until the children became adults.

RITA SIMON PH.D.

Rita J. Simon is a Sociologist who earned her doctorate at the University of Chicago in 1957. Before coming to American University in 1983 to serve as Dean of the School of Justice, she was a member of the faculty at the University of Illinois, at the Hebrew University on Jerusalem, and the University of Chicago. She is currently a "University Professor" in the School of Public Affairs and the Washington College of Law at American University. Professor Simon has authored 43 books and edited 19 including: *In Their Own Voices* with Rhonda Roorda, Columbia University Press, 2000; *Adoption Across Borders* with Howard Altstein, Rowman and Littlefield, 2000; *Adoption, Race and Identity* (with Howard Altstein), Praeger, 1992; *The Case for Transracial Adoption* (with Howard Altstein and Marygold Melli), American University Press, 1994.

HOWARD ALSTEIN PH.D.

Howard Altstein has been with the University of Maryland, School of Social Work for over 35 years, serving as Associate Dean and Dean. Professor Altstein is the author of books and many articles on interracial and intercountry adoption, family preservation. In 1990 he received a Presidential Invitation to attend a "Celebration of Children" at the White House. In 1995 he received a Fulbright Research/Lecture Award. He currently serves as a member of the Fulbright Review Committee, Washington, DC. Professor Altstein has appeared on ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox, Canadian Television (CTV), Australian Broadcasting Corporation, BBC, National Public Radio, National Public Television and other U.S. national and local network radio and television news broadcasts discussing his work and issues related to adoption.

JEFF FARBER INDEPENDENT FILMMAKER

Producer, director and cinematographer, Jeff Farber has been an award-winning independent filmmaker for over 25 years. He was a founding member of new liberty Productions.



Dr. Stanley Block Ph.D.

A full day interactive experiential workshop that gives techniques to the professional that allows them to maximize their inner resources and minimize job stresses. Professionals will gain tools to help them work successfully with foster and adoptive parents.

A full day interactive experiential that gives adoptive parents simple, easy-to-apply tools that allows them to utilize their own untapped resources to solve many of their challenges.

STANLEY H. BLOCK M.D.

Stanley H. Block, M.D., is Adjunct Professor of Law and Psychiatry at Seattle University School of Law and Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry at University of Utah School Of Medicine. He is Board Certified in Psychiatry and Psychoanalysis. He has had academic appointments and taught at a number of medical schools, including his alma mater UCLA. Before entering medical school, he received an M.A. in physics at the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Block is currently developing medical applications and practice centers based on Bridging the I-System® principles. He lives in Tacoma, Washington with his wife and collaborator Carolyn Bryant Block.

KEVIN WEBB LCSW

Kevin Webb has over 19 years with the Utah Department of Human Services and has extensive training and experience in working with families. As a Clinical Consultant for DCFS, he chaired the Grand/ San Juan Adoption Committee. During this time, he worked with several adoptive families. Kevin has since become certified in the Mind-Body Bridging approach and has pioneered its use with children and families. Together with Dr. Derrik Tollefson, Dr. Stanley H. Block, and others, Kevin coauthored a paper regarding using the Mind-Body Bridging approach in treating Domestic Violence Offenders.

Don't miss our legal panel workshop that includes: **JUDGE SHARON P. MCCULLY, JUDGE DONALD J. EYRE, JR AND JUDGE ROBERT K. HILDER**

PARENT WORKSHOP DAY

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

WEDNESDAY MARCH 18TH

SESSION ONE 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

1. ADOPTEE PANEL

JACOB GIBSON PHD, LMFT
JANEY NELSON, LCSW

This workshop will briefly present a clinical model for working with teens dealing with attachment-adoption issues. Focus is made on transferring attachment to adoptive parents. Following the presentation, a panel of teenage adoptees will share their stories, including their work through reconnecting with their families. Questions and discussion with the audience will follow.

2. PRENATAL DRUG AFFECTS

LIZ BALKIN U OF U

This presentation will address the effect of drugs of abuse on the fetus, baby and pregnant mother. The presentation will attempt to eliminate the myths surrounding drug use during pregnancy. Drugs to be discussed include marijuana, methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine and the most damaging of all substances, alcohol. The presentation will attempt to give perspective to professional and public groups regarding the actual effects of substances of abuse and the complexity and difficulty in studying such exposures; stressing that each case be examined individually, mindful of its context.

3. INSTITUTIONAL RACISM

SUSAN CUTLER EGBERT, MSW, PH.D.,
LASHAWN SCHULTZ, MSW

Institutional racism is a form of racism that occurs specifically within institutions—governments, corporations, schools, etc. Racial attitudes in our society present real risk factors that put children of color at risk for not reaching their own potential. This workshop will address (1) the significance of race and the impact of “white privilege” in our society, (2) the social and emotional implications of institutional racism on transracially adoptive families, and (3) practical ideas for supporting adopted children of color understand and manage the effects of institutional racism in their lives.

SESSION TWO 1:45PM - 3:15 PM

1. ADOPTION: BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER - A BIRTH MOM'S JOURNEY

TAUSHA DINGMAN

Birth mothers of different ages, backgrounds & situations will share their journey through adoption. The panel will talk about their life before they found out they were pregnant, the emotions they felt when they found out and their thought process that brought them to adoption. They will talk about their adoption process and how life has been since they placed.

2. CORE ADOPTION ISSUES

MARTY SHANNON LCSW

This workshop will help participants understand what adoption brings into a child's development. Participants will walk away with a better understanding of how the adoption experience overlays and influences normal child development. The complex mix of individual child characteristics, biology, parenting styles, adoption and childhood trauma will also be explored.

3. INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION

HOWARD ALSTEIN PH.D

The world of adoption has markedly changed since the days of ‘one size fits all’ placements. No longer is adoption solely defined as two married, racially similar, heterosexual individuals adopting a native born racially similar child.

This workshop will be about the changing nature of adoption, especially the adoption of foreign born children. I will frame this presentation within the perspectives of the recently passed Hague Adoption Convention, the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act (1996) and the Adoptions and Safe Families Act (1997).

SESSION THREE 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

1. FOSTER TO ADOPT PANEL

UTAH FOSTER CARE FOUNDATION

Hear from a panel of foster and adoptive parents about their experiences: the challenges and rewards, the love and joy, and the day to day realities. Learn more about the children they care for, how the children already in their home have been impacted, what it's like when children go home or become a permanent member of their family, why they do it, and more. An opportunity to learn about foster care and adoption from those who are living it.

2. LIVING ON THE FAULT LINE, WHERE RACE AND FAMILY MEET

JEFF FARBER

This documentary explores the intersection where family love meets racial injustice in the experience of transracial families created through adoption. An honest open-hearted look at race in America, it is an intimate portrait that reveals the challenges transracial families face as children of color grow up in communities where racial discrimination, stereotyping and white privilege are often unspoken and undeniable realities. Living on the Fault Line profiles nine families telling the untold story of transracial adoption, revealing the complex, challenging and emotional costs of racial discrimination brought into the privacy of the family. This filmmaker Jeff Farber will also lead a discussion about the film.

3. HOW WHITE PARENTS SOCIALIZER THEMSELVES AND THEIR AFRICAN AMERICAN ADOPTEES ABOUT RACE

DARRON SMITH

This workshop will examine how White parents socialize African American adoptees (TRAs) to resist the day-to-day experiences with racial slights, taunts and other insults in their larger social context. I will particularly examine the ways in which White parents prepare themselves to be open and reflexive to recognizing the many facets of racism while other White parents remain oblivious to the experiences of their transracially adopted (TRAs) Black children. In order for White parents to be responsive to the needs of Black adoptees, they must, in essence, understand the varying degrees of racism and how to unpack the many unconscious notions of blackness that shape their child's experiences.

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

THURSDAY MARCH 19

SESSION FOUR: 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

1. HOW TO CONDUCT A QUALITY HOME STUDY

LEROY FRANKE LCSW

This session will help the home study practitioner, an applicant participating in a home study and the reader of a home study understand all of the factors that go into the adoption home study process, including: 1) family engagement skills, 2) information gathering, 3) assessment of parental strengths and needs, 4) how to write the home study report, and 5) preparation of a family for placement, and 6) responsibilities for post placement support.

2. PRENATAL DRUG AFFECTS

LIZ BALKIN U OF U

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SESSION FIVE: 10:45PM - 12:15PM

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3. ADOPTEES IN THEIR OWN VOICES

RITA SIMON PH.D.

Rita will discuss in depth experiences of 24 adult transracial adoptees as they were growing up in white families. She will also describe the parent’s reactions to having adopted children of a different race and report on a 20 year study that she conducted with Howard Altstein on white families that adopted non-white children and how they followed those families until the children became adults.

SESSION SIX: 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

1. LIVING ON THE FAULT LINE, WHERE RACE AND FAMILY MEET

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2. EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT ADOPTION LAW, BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK (UNTIL NOW)*

LANCE RICH JD

Join a panel of legal experts, including local judges and attorneys, who will answer questions ranging from the basics to the subtle nuances of adoption law and court proceedings. Find out what judges like to see in adoption cases, what they don’t like to see, and what has changed in the law this past year. Feel free to drop off your questions in advance to the UAC registration desk for our expert panel.

* Judges and attorneys will answer general questions and will not render legal advice on pending adoption cases.

3. WHAT THE 2000 CENSUS TELLS US ABOUT TRANSRACIAL ADOPTION

CARDELL JACOBSON PHD

The census data contain race and ethnic identifications of all members of the household. By selecting and matching households and household members, we are able to describe the demographic characteristics and regional variations of those who adopt transracially. Results from qualitative interviews with transracial adoptee will also be discussed. they placed.

CONFERENCE INFO

CONFERENCE FORMAT

Our conference format includes Dr. Stanley Block speaking to professionals participants all day on Wednesday and to parents participants on Thursday. Parent participants will have the opportunity to attend workshops Wednesday with professional participants attending workshops on Thursday. Our workshops are designed to allow for learning and discussion of topics of interest to the designated audience.

LUNCH

Lunch is included in the registration fee and will be provided at the center. During lunch the first day the annual Utah Adoption Council (UAC) awards will be presented. On the second day during lunch there will be a panel.

PANEL -THURSDAY LUNCH- TRANSRACIAL ADOPTION STORIES

Transracial adoption affects everyone in the adoption triad. This panel will share their personal experience and how it has impacted their lives.

BROCHURE

This brochure and all information will be posted on the UAC web site, www.utahadoptioncouncil.org.

FEES

One day \$65.00, two days \$90.00. 10% discount for groups of 10 or more that register together. Registration deadline, postmarked March 4th. Registrations will be accepted at the door for an additional \$15.00 fee. No discounts available for registrations at the door. All major credit cards accepted.

BOOTH SPACE

There will be booth space available during the conference. The fee will be \$100.00 for Utah Adoption Council (UAC) members and \$150.00 for non-UAC members. Please submit your organization's name when requesting a booth. Contact Amy Boyack at 801-994-5205 amy.boyack@utahfostercare.org with any questions that you may have.

ADOPTION BOOKS

There will be adoption books for sale the day of the conference from Genesis Books, 801-268-1919.

HANDOUTS

For handouts or information for classes you will be unable to attend, please contact the presenter.

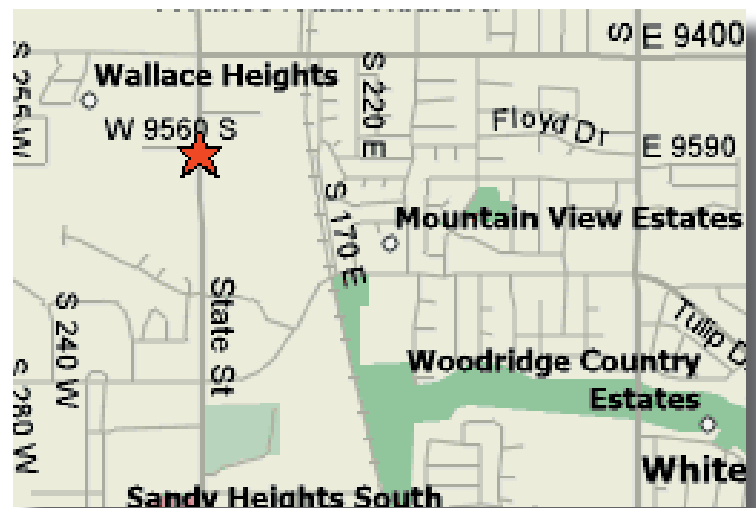
E-mail addresses will be provided at the conference.

HOTEL ROOMS AVAILABLE

The Holiday Inn Express and Suites in Sandy is offering a rate of \$89.00 a night. Please contact them at 801-495-1317 for additional information or to book your reservation. Mention you are with a conference at the South Towne Expo Center to get the discounted rate.

LOCATION

All sessions will be held at the South Towne Expo, check the map for driving directions.



SOUTH TOWNE EXPO CENTER
9575 S. STATE STREET
SANDY, UT 84070
801-565-4490

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY

MARCH 18TH

9:00 - 10:15	WELCOME AND KEYNOTE RITA SIMON
10:30- 5:00	DR. BLOCK ALL DAY PROFESSIONALS
SESSION 1 10:30 - 12:00	ADOPTEE PANEL JACOB GIBSON JANEY NELSON
	PRENATAL DRUG AFFECTS LIZ BALKIN
	INSTITUTIONAL RACISM SUSAN EGBERT & LASHAWN SCHULTZ
LUNCH 12:15-1:30	UTAH ADOPTION COUNCIL AWARDS
SESSION 2 1:45 - 3:15	BIRTH MOTHER PANEL TAUSHA DINGMAN
	CORE ADOPTION ISSUES MARTY SHANNON
	INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION HOWARD ALSTEIN
BREAK 3:15 - 3:30	
SESSION 3 3:30 - 5:00	FOSTER TO ADOPT PANEL UTAH FOSTER CARE FOUNDATION
	WHERE RACE & FAMILY MEET JEFF FARBER
	HOW PARENTS SOCIALIZE THEMSELVES & ADOPTES DARRON SMITH

THURSDAY

MARCH 19TH

9:00 - 3:00	DR. BLOCK ALL DAY PARENTS
SESSION 4 9:00 - 10:30	HOW TO CONDUCT A QUALITY HOME STUDY LEROY FRANKE
	PRENATAL DRUG AFFECTS LIZ BALKIN
	INSTITUTIONAL RACISM SUSAN EGBERT & LASHAWN SCHULTZ
BREAK 10:30 10:45	
SESSION 5 10:45 - 12:15	CORE ADOPTION ISSUES MARTY SHANNON
	BIRTH MOTHER PANEL TAUSHA DINGMAN
	ADOPTES OWN VOICE RITA SIMON
LUNCH 12:30 - 1:45	ADOPTED YOUTH PANEL
SESSION 6 2:00 - 3:30	WHERE RACE & FAMILY MEET JEFF FARBER
	LEGAL PANEL LANCE RICH
	TRANSRACIAL ADOPTION RESEARCH CARDELL JACOBSON

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT THE BOOTHS AND BASKETS.

WATER STATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE LOBBY DURING BREAKS

REGISTRATION FORM

**REGISTRATION FORM MUST BE POST-MARKED BY MARCH 4TH,
REGISTRATION AT THE DOOR, ADDITIONAL \$15.00, NO DISCOUNTS**

☐ Individual/couple

☐ Professional

Name _____ Organization _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____ Email Address _____

☐ 10% discount for groups of 10 or more registering together

☐ \$65.00 One Day General Registration

☐ \$90.00 Two Day General Registration

☐ \$100.00 Booth Rental for UAC members (Organization's Name _____)

☐ \$150.00 Booth Rental for non UAC members (Organization's Name _____)

Total Cost: _____

VEGETARIAN MEAL: ☐

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

☐ Check

Make checks payable to:

Utah Adoption Council

Credit Card:

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover Card

Card# _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

WORKSHOP CHOICES:

In order to plan for room size, please check the box of each session you plan to attend.
(See inside for descriptions of workshops.) Choose ONE workshop per session.

Please check the box if you are attending the all day presentation.

PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT REGISTRATION WITHOUT CHOOSING WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTATION.

WEDNESDAY PARENT WORKSHOPS

1 ☐ ADOPTEE PANEL ☐ DRUG EXPOSURE ☐ RACISM

2 ☐ BIRTH MOTHERS ☐ CORE ISSUES ☐ INTERCOUNTY

3 ☐ FOST-ADOPT PANEL ☐ FILM ☐ TRANSRACIAL

THURSDAY PROFESSION WORKSHOPS

4 ☐ HOMESTUDY ☐ DRUG EXPOSURE ☐ RACISM

5 ☐ CORE ISSUES ☐ BIRTH MOTHERS ☐ VOICES

6 ☐ FILM ☐ LEGAL PANEL ☐ RESEARCH



FOR PROFESSIONAL DR. BLOCK ALL DAY

MIND-BODY BRIDGING for the PROFESSIONAL ADOPTION WORKER A full day interactive experiential workshop that gives techniques to the professional that allows them to maximize their inner resources and minimize job stresses. Professionals will gain tools to help them work successfully with foster and adoptive parents.



FOR ADOPTIVE PARENTS DR. BLOCK ALL DAY

TRANSFORMING CHALLENGES INTO SOLUTIONS: A MIND-BODY BRIDGING WORKSHOP FOR ADOPTIVE PARENTS A full day interactive experiential workshop that gives adoptive parents simple, easy-to-apply tools that allows them to utilize their own untapped resources to solve many of their challenges.

PLEASE DETACH THIS COMPLETED FORM AND MAIL IT TO:

**UTAH ADOPTION COUNCIL
C/O LDS FAMILY SERVICES
WEST VALLEY AGENCY
5698 W GLEN EAGLE DR
WEST VALLEY, UT 84128**

UTAH ADOPTION COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 2069
SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84110

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UTAH ADOPTION CONFERENCE 2009



WWW.UTAHADOPTIONCOUNCIL.ORG